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NEWS RELEASE



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PRINCE RUPERT FERRY SERVICE TO RESUME DECEMBER 4

Gov. Tony Knowles announced today that Alaska State ferry service to Prince Rupert, British Columbia will resume on Thursday, December 4. Resumption of weekly sailings by the Alaska Marine Highway System follows assurances by Canadian officials of safe passage for Alaska state ferries; development of a contingency plan in the event of a future blockade; and financial support by the City of Prince Rupert for a marketing plan aimed at independent travelers that use the Marine Highway system.

"Alaskans, Canadians and visitors all benefit from the ferry link between Ketchikan and Prince Rupert," Knowles said. "I'm pleased by the cooperation of Canadian authorities that allows this service to resume. Last summer's blockade was wrongheaded; we hope it won't happen again. With assurances of safe passage from the Canadians, now it's time to move ahead."

Prince Rupert Service begins December 4th with the departure of the M/V *Aurora* from Ketchikan at 2:00 a.m. The vessel is scheduled to arrive in Prince Rupert at approximately 9:30 a.m. The *Aurora* will remain in Prince Rupert for a brief welcoming ceremony before returning to Ketchikan.

Ketchikan to Prince Rupert service will continue each Thursday in December, except for Christmas Day. Beginning in January this service will be provided by the M/V *Taku* with added capacity.

Fares for the Ketchikan to Prince Rupert run for a standard vehicle up to 19 feet with a promotional driver discount (75 percent off the adult rate) will be \$99. The rate from Juneau to Prince Rupert will be \$311. Reservations are now being accepted.

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Contact: Dennis Poshard, Department of Transportation, (907) 465-3900.